

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 00861 061120Z

17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 OPIC-12 PA-04

PRS-01 OIC-04 EA-11 FRB-02 IO-14 NEA-10 LAB-06 SIL-01

SWF-02 DRC-01 /221 W

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P R 061033Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8766

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, ENRG, OECD, SZ

SUBJECT: OECD/XCSS MARCH 18-19 MEETING

REF: A) BERN 0816; B) USOECD 5480

1. SUMMARY. FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH GOS OFFICIAL MARCH 5 INDICATES THAT SWISS WOULD VERY MUCH FAVOR THREE OR FOUR WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION (XCSS) MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18-19. REASONS, AS INDICATED REFTEL A, ARE LATE DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION, FLUID INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND SCHEDULED MARCH 13-14 BRUSSELS MEETING OF ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIEF OF SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE'S OFFICE OF OECD AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (LEVY) TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 5 THAT JOLLES, LANUETIN, AND HE HAD REVIEWED THAT MORNING
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PAGE 02 BERN 00861 061120Z

SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT (REF B) ON COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC,

TRADE, MONETARY, AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES. THEY HAD FOUND DOCUMENT EXCELLENT, PARTICULARLY PORTIONS DEALING WITH PROPOSED ACTION PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THEY FELT THAT LESS THAN TWO WEEKS WAS FAR TOO SHORT TO ALLOW OFFICIALS IN CAPITALS TO BE PREPARED ADEQUATELY TO DEAL AT MARCH 18-19 XCSS WITH SUCH AN AMBITIOUS AND DETAILED DOCUMENT.

3. LEVY SAID THAT JOLLES AND OTHER KEY GOS OFFICIALS THUS FELT MORE THAN EVER THAT POSTPONEMENT OF MARCH 18-19 MEETING WAS WARRANTED BY PERHAPS THREE OR FOUR WEEKS. LATER MEETING WOULD ALLOW FURTHER TIME FOR REFLECTION AND COULD BE USED AS MEANS PREPARE FOR MAY MINISTERIAL. MEETING IN MID-MARCH WOULD BE TOO FAR IN ADVANCE OF MINISTERIAL TO SERVE THAT PURPOSE.

4. LEVY ALSO INDICATED THAT SWISS WOULD PREFER NOT HAVE XCSS MEETING FOLLOW CLOSELY AFTER ECG BRUSSELS SESSION BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE DUPLICATION AND OVERLAPPING OF DISCUSSION IN TWO BODIES.

5. GOS OFFICIAL NOTED THAT AT HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING MARCH 5 HE UNDERSTOOD SECGEN VAN LENNEP HAD REFERRED TO HIS MARCH 4 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JOLLES, MENTIONED THAT SOME DOUBTS HAD ARISEN CONCERNING WHETHER NEXT XCSS MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED (WITHOUT ATTRIBUTING THIS VIEW TO JOLLES), SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WAS LITTLE RISK OF DUPLICATION, ETC., WITH BRUSSELS ECG MEETING, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT XCSS SHOULD MEET AS SCHEDULED. SWISS CHARGE BRUGGMANN, WHO HAD EXPECTED THAT DATES OF XCSS WOULD NOT BE RAISED, REMAINED SILENT. SWISS IN BERN ARE NOW IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH THEIR OECD DEL AND SECRETARIAT TO SEEK RECONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT.

6. SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT SWISS HAVE HEARD REPORT THAT SECGEN HAS RECENTLY CONSULTED WITH AT LEAST ONE DEL ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF RECONSTITUTING XCSS AS RESTRICTED GROUP. HE SAID THAT ORIGINALLY AND IN IDEAL WORLD SWISS FAVORED SMALLER GROUP OF COUNTRIES IN XCSS BUT THEY FELT IT WOULD BE MISTAKE AND DAMAGING TO XCSS TO RE-OPEN QUESTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BERN 00861 061120Z

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PETROLEUM, POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERN00861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740365/aaaaciio.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BERN 0816; B) USOECD 5480
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD/XCSS MARCH 18-19 MEETING
TAGS: ECON, EFIN, ENRG, SZ, OECD, XCSS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005